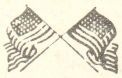
WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Founded December 19, 1857 MAY 1976

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Our last issue of the Impressions and another Washtenaw County Historical Society year is almost history or historic. At this time I think it is in order to thank Alice Ziegler and her staff for again doing a splendid job of compiling and editing "The Impressions". Many people have mentioned how much they enjoy receiving and reading it.

Our annual tour is fast approaching and I believe Dave has lined up another winner with a tour of Milan on Saturday June 19th. This is one of our most popular activities.

For all of you who have been asking if old Ed is still heavy in tin ceilings...in a word, yes. Just recently Old Drur bagged an exceptionally fine tin ceiling at Top of The Lamp on North Main. And if you have been wondering how you would go about inspecting a tin ceiling, Old Drur says, "You lie flat on your back, but watch out for those high heels, folks."

Incidentally, Harriet and I recently bagged two barns along US 23 just north of Hartland. Each has a huge black and white portrait painted on the end facing on-coming traffic. I took several color snaps of each barn from the middle of Old US 23 which is almost as dangerous as Drur's method of inspecting ceilings. The ceiling and two barns are truly worthy of your inspection.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting June 15th and annual tour June 19th.

Thomas F. Lacy

WCHS ANNUAL TOUR SATURDAY, JUNE 19, WILL VISIT HISTORIC SITES IN MILAN GUIDED BY CHIEF HALE

The Washtenaw County Historical Society will visit some historic sites in Milan on its spring tour Saturday, June 19, as guests of the Milan Historical Society.

Police Chief Warren Hale, a past president and current vice-president of the Milan Society, will be tour guide.

The tour will visit one of the historic local churches, the restored building of the former Henry Ford mill and several residences, probably going inside a couple of them.

Chief Hale is knowledgeable about Milan history and he has written a short history of the community expected off the press July 1. He is working on a more detailed history which he hopes to complete for the Milan centennial in 1985.

Price of the tour which will include dinner is $7. Reservations may be made with WCHS Vice-president Dave Pollock at 971-6847 by Friday, June 11. He plans to have two buses holding a total of about 80 persons available.

ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS SLATED TUESDAY, JUNE 15

The WCHS annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, at Liberty Hall, in Ann Arbor Federal Savings and Loan, Liberty at Division Sts., Ann Arbor, Thomas F. Lacy, president, announced.

It will be a brief business meeting with reports by the treasurer and various committee chairmen including membership, the general museum committee and the curator. Officers and representatives to the Board of Directors will be elected. A social hour will follow.

1850 CENSUS INDEX COMING

The Michigan Genealogical Council is publishing on June 1 a new index of the 1850 federal census in Michigan as an aid to researchers.

Before publication it may be ordered for $18, later $20. It will be clothbound and contain 116,000 names identifiable as to microfilm roll number, county, township, and, in some cases, village or city as well as page number.

It may be ordered by sending a check to: Michigan Genealogical Council, 11374 Stoneybrook Dr., Grand Ledge, Mi. 48837.

COUNTY'S REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS TOPIC OF TALK

Can Washtenaw, a county which didn't come into existence until 1822, have a Bicentennial connection?

Yes, if you count the Revolutionary War veterans who came to live here long after the war.

How many were there? Who were they? Impressions Editor Alice Ziegler will discuss her findings about "Washtenaw's Revolutionary Heroes" at the WCHS meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 20, in Liberty Hall at Ann Arbor Federal Savings & Loan, Liberty at Division St., Ann Arbor.

The program will also include brief remarks about Michigan during the Revolution and slides of graves of Revolutionary soldiers which can still be found in several cemeteries around the county.

AT GANDY DANCER

WCHS SEES OLD DEPOTS, NEW GUISES

While many railroad depots seem to have fallen victim to our throwaway culture, others have been adapted to new uses.

Sam Breck of the Ann Arbor Train and Trolley Watchers Society showed slides of many types of depots to the Washtenaw County Historical Society at its April meeting. He is also editor of a bi-monthly publication on railroad history in southeast Michigan, "The Inside Track".

The setting of the meeting in the former Michigan Central Depot in Ann Arbor made it doubly nostalgic.

The Society gathered in the lounge of the Gandy Dancer Restaurant, itself a successful adaptation of a depot. While the lounge is on a newly constructed balcony over the former ticket counter on the west end of the building, it affords a close-up view of old stained glass windows and the original handsome wooden ceiling. It also overlooks the dining room where some of the original benches are still in use.

"Railroad stations are a unique American resource that should continue to serve public and private interest even though their original purpose may have passed, "Breck said in his opening remarks.

"The first railroad station was built at Mt. Clare, Baltimore, in 1830. It is believed that over 40,000 passenger stations were built in the next 120 years," he said. An estimated half of that number still stand.

By contrast there are only 10,000 McDonalds (hamburger) establishments in the United States today, he commented.

"Some stations still serve commuters, others host a "train-a-day" but their use as passenger stations is limited and decreasing. Only big city stations can look for survival--

Ann Arbor Railroad Depot in Ann Arbor — All courtesy of Sam Breck

All depots pictured were on the Ann Arbor Railroad. Only the one in Ann Arbor still stands.

and those only if they become centers of mass transit developments.

His slides included depots from all over North America. They were in different architectural styles, large and small, old and new, abandoned and reused and some no longer in existence. He also showed scenes taken inside the Michigan or later New York and Penn Central Depot in Ann Arbor before it was converted to restaurant use. He thinks his interior views may be the only such pictures still in existence.

The architectural styles vary from the palatial architect-designed buildings in large cities to the smaller variations of standard plan A, B and C or 1, 2 and 3 used by the railroads, and even to tiny wooden buildings hardly larger than an outhouse in lonely areas out west. The latter might be named for the head of the track laying gang, such as "Don" or "Edgar".

(Actually, Breck points out, a "station" is a railroad term for a geographic area where trains stop while a depot is a building to receive passengers and freight. The railroad still technically has a station at Geddes because there is a switch and a phone there, he noted.)

The smaller depots typically handled freight on one end, passengers on the other, with the station agent's office in the middle with a bay window on the track side from which he could see the trains coming from either way.

Architectural style might be influenced by the area--San Diego's is Spanish--or Russian as in North Conway, New Hampshire, where a resident had been impressed with Russian architecture on a visit to that country. The little abandoned depot at Hudson in Hillsdale county is the only known building in Michigan designed by the noted Boston architect H. H. Richardson who founded the Romanesque revival style (in which the Gandy Dancer building was designed).

The depot was a source of civic pride and sign of civil well

being, Breck suggested. Citizens of Lake Odessa hired a local carpenter to add a tower to their standard type 3 depot on the Pere Marquette to add a little class to it.

South Lyon's depot had a conical roof called a "witch's hat" topping a round bay from which the agent could get a good view of the tracks where two railroads crossed. Saranac and Fowler also have "witch's hat" depots. South Lyon's was recently moved to a city park for historical society headquarters.

The Holland, Michigan, depot has a long shed to protect visitors and luggage as does the one in Bay Pines, Florida, where there are daily showers.

The depot moved to Greenfield Village is a standard type except it has living quarters for the agent and his family. The little depot at Elkton in the thumb is typical of board and batten construction, he said.

The depot at Grayling had a dormitory for the crews and, occasionally, snow-bound passengers.

The Battle Creek Michigan Central depot is on the National Register of Historic Places. The stone depot at Niles, similar to Ann Arbor, has been sandblasted quite successfully he thinks, because it doesn't look "like a scalded pig". Niles has a novel sign with N—I—L—E—S spelled out in pipes and the letters joined with elbows by a pipefitter. Grass Lake also has a stone depot similar to Ann Arbor's.

There is a slowly growing public interest in restoring and reusing buildings of historic or architectural merit, he believes. While utilitarian and functional, railroad depots are an example of American innovative design and, he feels, worthy cultural expressions.

"These buildings are among the most self-assured and fully realized examples of nineteenth and twentieth century American architecture," he believes. "Even so, only 56 stations are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places (out of more than 6,500 entries).

Lakeland Depot

"Nonetheless the railroad did stimulate the development of an important new architectural form--the railroad station. We may now take it for granted but it was once without architectural precedent."

"Carroll Meeks traces the origins of some smaller, early stations to toll houses used for horse-drawn vehicles; other early structures were obviously patterned on barns, with a porch added for passenger protection." But as the railroads grew, larger more complex stations were necessary to house a multiplicity of activities but especially to channel the sudden arrival and departure of crowds moving in different directions.

"This necessitated architectural inventiveness, for there were no available prototypes for such structures. The only public buildings designed for mass circulation before the nineteenth century had been churches and theaters (or reaching back to ancient Rome, gymnasiums and baths). These could not be directly adapted to railroad use, although some external embellishments were appropriated. Famous architects of the day were commissioned to design some stations; many others were designed by railroad personnel who adapted what became standard plans to suit local conditions.

Now railroads prefer new

smaller stations and only multiple use offers the economic muscle that justifies preservation of the old, he said.

The depot in Washington D. C. is now a visitors center. The Omaha depot built in the 1930's has been abandoned. Milwaukee has probably the last large depot to be built in the United States while Ottawa, Ontario, has a large modern station built only eight or nine years ago.

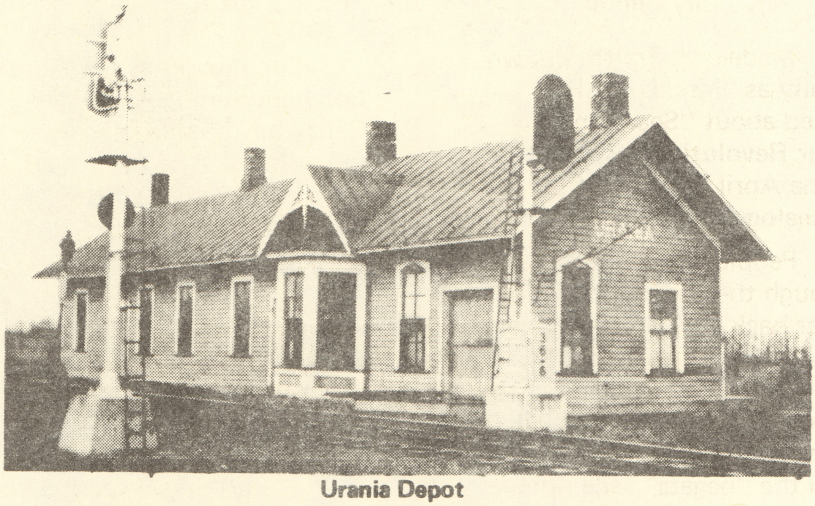
When the large Michigan Central Depot in Detroit opened in 1914, it attracted the largest crowd ever to gather in Detroit, he said. The tall part of the structure in back was headquarters for the railroad. The depot was actually in the lower copper-roofed section in front. Last July part of the depot was reopened, he said.

In the early 1930's Birmingham, Mich., moved its rails about a mile east from the center of town and built a new depot, like a house in outside appearance, and below track level. You can't see the trains from it. A sign and bell announce their approach.

The depot at Mt. Clemens with four or five others along the Grand Trunk Railroad are the oldest in Michigan. At the Mt. Clemens depot, Thomas Edison learned telegraphy and men left for the Civil War.

Depots at division points were larger to accommodate offices. Jackson was a division point as was Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, and St. Thomas, Ontario, while St. John's, Newfoundland, was larger because it was at the end of the line. The Jackson depot is more than a hundred years old. Once seven lines came into Jackson, he noted.

The station at Durand, once a busy railroad center, is now vacant and boarded up. Once sixty trains a day passed it. It was built in 1902, burned two years later, and rebuilt exactly as it had been.



Urania Depot

Urania was not in outer space. It was near the southwest corner of the Ypsilanti State Hospital grounds on Willis Rd.

Saginaw had the largest depot in the state outside the Michigan Central in Detroit. It was the headquarters of the Pere Marquette Railroad. It is still standing and being used for offices and various things including a casket showroom.

Former depots at Cadillac and Owendale are now branch banks. Wolverine's is a public library, Mancelona's, a lawyer's office, as is one in Seneca Falls, N. Y.; Sutton's Bay depot is now an architect's office and Oberlin, Ohio houses a "head start" center; Charlotte's now houses a Miller's Ice Cream store while depots at Mullett Lake and Jonesville have been transformed into private residences.

Historical societies are now located in Charlevoix, Petoskey, Howell and Grosse Isle depots. (The present "free bridge" used to be the railroad bridge onto Grosse Isle, Breck noted.)

Northport has a sandwich shop, Kalamazoo has the "Whistle Stop" restaurant and one in Brantford, Ontario, "The Iron Horse" restaurant, has railroad sounds piped in instead of background music. Ypsilanti is now considering converting its depot to a restaurant.

The Ypsilanti depot was originally three stories high, he said, but damage by lightning and train wrecks caused removal of the upper stories.

The Belleville depot burned as a result of a freak accident in which a Detroit Edison highline wire dropped down, touched railroad communication wires and sent ten million volts of power through the lines blowing out fuses from here to Montpelier, Ohio.

Milan's depot suffered trainwreck damage. Also the brick tower that sets at the Milan crossing of the Norfolk and Western and Ann Arbor Railroads was moved there from Britton, he commented. It was loaded on two flat cars drawn side-by-side.

He ended his show with various views of Ann Arbor's Michigan Central Depot inside and out. A 1909 postcard view showed the iron fence which prevented access to the tracks except through the waiting room, which he also showed. The former women's rest room area is now a dining nook, he noted.

He also showed a view of the home at Fifth Ave. and Beakes Sts. which was converted from the upright part of the depot that preceded the present Gandy Dancer building. It was west of the Broadway Bridge, he said.

SUMMER OF '76

MANY BICENTENNIAL EVENTS PLANNED HERE

America's 200th birthday celebration this summer should be a gala red-white-and-blue bang-up affair in Washtenaw County according to plans announced by several communities. Beards, costumes, music, crafts, antiques will abound and there will even be a medicine man and a minstrel show.

Chelsea will have a "Spectacular" (pageant) with a cast of hundreds. Milan plans to paint its fire hydrants red, white and blue and a town crier will announce special events.

Dexter plans a minstrel show and a ball. Salem, perhaps the smallest, plans to turn almost the whole village into a festival area for its big weekend. Saline will try to evaporate salt from river water, something the pioneers did which gives the community its name.

Ann Arbor will have its July 4th fireworks and Ypsilanti its annual Independence Day parade the 3rd. There are many other special events as well as regular events with a bicentennial flavor.

Main Celebration Dates

ANN ARBOR—July 4th, fireworks display in Buhr Park.

CHELSEA—Aug. 13-21; pageant nightly Aug. 16-20.

DEXTER—July 1-10; minstrel show, lst and 2nd; "First Lady Ball," 3rd; parade and fireworks, 4th.

MANCHESTER—July 17-24; also a play, "1776", June 4, 5; "Hemlines and History", July 11; annual chicken broil, July 15.

MILAN—May 31, Memorial Day Parade; June 13, Flag Day Ceremony; Free Fair, July 12-17.

SALEM—July 30-Aug. 1, Fly-in of antique airplanes; square dance; exhibits, crafts, contests daily.

SALINE—Aug. 1-8. Also art fair, June 12-13; play, "Saline 48176" June 20, 21 and 22; chicken barbecue, July 13; "Anything Goes in Saline"; July 16.

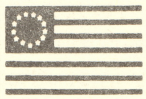
YPSILANTI—July 3, 11 a.m., annual parade; drum and bugle corps competition 7 p.m.; Also annual boat regatta, June 12,13.

★ CHELSEA—More than 60 committees have been organized for the celebration under General Chairman Richard Harvey. Friday, July 13 there will be sidewalk sales and a square and round dance; Sat., the 14th, a pancake breakfast and flag ceremony; Sunday, faith day, with a choral program in the evening.

Monday, homecoming and grand opening of pageant at dark at high school football field. Tuesday, the 17th, is frontier day with old fashioned crafts and even a medicine man; Wednesday, youth day; Thursday, International Day; Friday, Farmer's Day with a tour of old and new farms and country style dinner at noon, and Saturday, the 20th, a time capsule to be opened in 50 years is to be buried near the library.

The final event of the western Washtenaw committee's observance will be the raffle of a 1923 Ford Model T touring car at the Chelsea Fair Aug. 28. The fair starts Aug. 23.

★ DEXTER—Festivities will begin with a minstrel show July 1 and 2. A full week of activities will follow July 3-10 featuring a "First Lady Ball", parades, fireworks, sky diving, hot air balloons, steak fry, pig roast, carnival and a tent exhibit of old fashioned crafts.



The ball will be July 3 at the American Legion Hall with a 16 piece orchestra, the "Ambassadors of Good Will" from the Ann Arbor Federation of Musicians. At 6 p.m. the 4th a big parade is to march through Dexter to the American Legion where a fireworks display may be viewed later that evening.

The carnival and tent exhibit called "Century Vista Experience" will be open throughout the week. It will include a quilting bee and a taffy pull. Monday the 5th is Township Day; Youth Day, the 6th; Industrial Day, the 7th; a kids parade with pets and bicycles will be the 8th. Family day the 9th will feature a German dinner, sky diving and the hot air balloon launchings. The Jaycee steak fry and Agriculture Day will wind up the week the 10th. A big parade of old farm machinery including a steam engine and an oil pull tractor is planned.

★ MANCHESTER—Special events are planned July 17 to 24 plus other earlier events. High school students will help set the theme with a take-off of the Broadway production, "1776", at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 in the high school gym. The Saturday performance will include dinner served at 7 p.m.

"Hemlines and History" at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 11, in the high school gym will feature bicentennial costumes--some local and some authentically styled ones from the Rogers Co. which has been hired to assist with the western Washtenaw celebrations.

A "Mad Hatter's Tea" is planned at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 20, in the high school gym. It will feature old fashioned hats and afternoon tea. The menu will include cucumber sandwiches, a typical item at such affairs in days gone by.

The final day of Manchester's bicentennial week, Saturday, July 24, will include a parade and picnic and a concert by the "For-Tune Tellers", a barbershop quartet. Carolyn Ahrens is president of the local planning group. The Howell Bicentennial Band will play at the community fair Aug. 20.

★ MILAN—A city flag design contest has been held and the new flag will be presented at the special flag day ceremony June 13. A kick-off parade for the fair will be Sunday, July 12. During the fair old fashioned games will take place in Wilson Memorial Park, sponsored by the Milan Road Angels.

The Milan Jaycee Auxiliary will supervise painting of fire hydrants. During the year, a town crier will announce special events. Citizens 100 years old or older will be presented a key to the city. Historical homes and special trees will be marked on a city map available at bicentennial headquarters, Norma Smith, chairman of the Milan Bicentennial Commission, announced.

★ SALEM—Not only antique cars and tractors but also antique airplanes will be a feature of Salem's big carnival weekend July 30-Aug. 1. A fly-in is planned at the Salem airport. Trophies will be awarded. Chairman Alma Stephens expects about 50 arts and crafts booths to be lined up along the main street (Six Mile Rd.) which will be closed to autos. Stages are to be set up around the village with shows twice daily, including a barbershop quartet. A sing-along tent is planned.

A refreshment tent will serve barbecue dinners daily plus pancake breakfasts. There will be contests-bike decorating, watermelon eating etc. besides a carnival midway. Eight "Belle Starrs" will wander around subpoenaing people for kangaroo court.

A flag raising ceremony is planned, also a square dance in the school parking lot Friday night the 30th. Mrs. Stephens also hopes to have horse-drawn transportation.

The Salem Historical Society plans a museum display in a village-owned house by the fire station. They also hope to have souvenir plates with Salem scenes and portfolios of pen and ink artists' drawings of local buildings.

★ SALINE—Summer of '76 events include the annual art fair in Curtiss Park June 12 and 13; a special play "Saline 48176" to be presented June 20, 21 and 22; a chicken barbecue and a tug of war across the Saline river Saturday July 3; and "Anything Goes in Saline", July 16 at the Farm Council Grounds on Saline Rd.

The latter is to be a local version of a television show, featuring contestants and all kinds of stunts. Contestants from other communities are invited. There is an admission charge.

Saline's bicentennial week is Aug. 1-8 with special events daily including community worship in the park on Sunday, government day, Monday, ice cream social; and the J. C. C. rodeo Aug. 6, 7 and 8 at the Farm Council Grounds.

Mike Straight, a city employee, is heading the salt project. If the project is successful, packets of salt will be on sale.

★ YPSILANTI—Don Smith of American Legion Post 282 is coordinator of the bicentennial celebration which will feature the annual Independence Day Parade down Michigan Ave. beginning at 11 a.m. July 3.

A special girls drum and bugle corps competition will be held at 7 p.m. that evening at Shadford Field at Ypsilanti High School. Six to eight corps are expected to compete and the Ypsi High girls drum and bugle corps will also perform. Ypsi will have its usual carnival the week of the 4th at the Eastern Michigan University Stadium. The annual J. C. C.'s boat regatta is June 12 and 13 on Ford Lake.

'NOT FIT TO PRINT'

"A little school girl who was required to write an essay, not exceeding 250 words, on the subject of automobiles, wrote as follows:

'My uncle bought a Ford. He was riding in the country and it balked in going up a hill. My uncle tried to make it go, but couldn't, although he spoiled a $25 suit trying. I guess this is about fifty words. The other two hundred words are what my uncle said as he was walking back to town, but they are not fit to write down."

From "Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About a Rattling Good Car", gathered by Carleton B. Case, Shrewesbury Publishing Co., Chicago, 1917.

MADELEINE SMITH, 'MRS. D. A. R.' LOCALLY, SUGGESTS SEARCH FOR REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTORS CAN BE FUN

by Polly Bender

Madeleine Smith, known locally as "Mrs. D. A. R.", talked about "Searching for Your Revolutionary Ancestors" at the April meeting of the Genealogy Section of WCHS.

People like to trace back through the years some going as far back as Adam and Eve they say. If one can get back to William the Conqueror and then back to David, the Bible will carry you the rest of the way with the "begats", she noted.

But many people know only their grandfather and possibly that he came from a state on the East Coast.

To really trace ancestry, of course, one must verify each generation, probably back to a great-great-great grandfather to reach Revolutionary days. Vital records--birth, death, and marriage records, newspaper obituaries etc. are important here.

In some cases one might have a relative who has done the search and a copy may be obtained by writing headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D. C., and sending $2.

Mrs. Smith warned against buying a printed genealogy unless you can see it first in a library to be sure it can be of help to you.

A person may qualify as a Revolutionary ancestor with either a military or civil record, she said. The latter might be one of many forms of service of aid and comfort to the soldiers or the safety of the community. She showed several volumes of the Patriot Index compiled by the DAR, listing persons with Revolutionary service.

She reminded that there are often many spellings for the same name or an actual change of name, sometimes completely or sometimes by an Anglicized spelling such as "Schmidt" to "Smith".

Such works as the Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy are not always accurate, she warned. The information was given by the families themselves but not always researched.

She emphasized the importance of recording anecdotes in family genealogies. Record who said it and verify it.

"Pick up all the information you can as you never know when it may be useful. You may find forty J. B. Smiths and keep working until you sort them out. Be sure to answer queries from other searchers as you may receive information you are searching for."

Also collect all the pictures you can. They should be named and dated.

Genealogy can be a fun hobby for husband and wife. She recalled spending many happy hours at the Burton Collection in Detroit with her husband, the late Dr. Arthur Smith. He worked on family genealogy while she searched for others. With dinner out it made a full and busy day—a "bat" as she called it.

She concluded good-humoredly, "The trouble with making a family tree is you find that you are the only one who didn't amount to anything!"

GENEALOGY GROUP PLANS SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The WCHS Genealogy Section will continue monthly activities through the summer.

James O. Minton, map reference librarian at the University of Michigan's Graduate Library, will speak on the use of maps in genealogy at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23, in the library's map room. As usual someone will be on hand from 1 p.m. to help with genealogical problems.

The section's annual meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 27, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. William F. Bender, 2310 Ayrshire Dr. (off Plymouth Rd.), Ann Arbor. A potluck salad luncheon is planned. Beverages will be provided. A show and tell session will follow.

The group will gather at the home of Harold Jones, 701 Glazier (at Cavanaugh Lake), Chelsea, at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, July 25, for a potluck picnic and program. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to pass. The host will speak about the famous painting, "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence".

The group will probably read a cemetery in August, Mrs. Bender, secretary, said. In September, member Flora Burt who used to live in Detroit and made a study of its history, will talk about "Old Days in Detroit and Michigan". Further details about the latter two activities will be announced later.

DEXTER CONFERENCE TOPIC RESTORATIONS

Restoring an abandoned church as a museum at Dexter and restoring an 1840's farmstead in Ann Arbor will be the main topics at the fourth annual Southeast Region Historical Conference Saturday, May 22, at Dexter High School Library.

Speakers at the 9:30 a.m. session will be Norma McAllister, president of Dexter Historical Society, and Mary Schieve-Achenbaum and Nan Hodges of Cobblestone Farm.

A guided tour of the Dexter museum at 11:30, luncheon at Webster Church Community Hall at 12:30 and an afternoon session at 1:45 with reports from societies in the region are also on the agenda. Registration and coffee hour begin at 9 a.m.

COUNTY CALENDAR

CHELSEA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY--House tour Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Seven houses dating from 1850 to 1940 plus library. Lunch at North Lake Methodist Church. Tour tickets may be bought at the door or at Chelsea Drug or McLeod's Drugs in Dexter. Luncheon tickets must be bought at least a day ahead.

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DEXTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY--Secretary of State Richard Austin is scheduled to speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27, at Wylie School. He is a member of the Historical Society of Michigan board of directors.

Saturday, May 22, the society will host the southeast regional conference of HSM. Sunday, June 27, the Dexter Museum will hold open house from 2 to 6 p.m. The museum will also be open July 5, 7 and 9 during Dexter's special bicentennial week from 12:30-4 p.m. with a different display each day, Mrs. Norma McAllister, president, announced.

The DHS annual meeting and election of officers will be Sunday afternoon, July 25, at the museum. It will begin with a potluck dinner.

SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY--Members are working feverishly this month to put together an illustrated history book of Salem to be turned over to the editor June 2. They have collected a lot of pictures and other material and estimate they may have 150 to 180 pages.

The group plans to continue meeting through the summer on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 at the township hall. Board meetings are held the second Wednesday following regular meetings.

The society is also planning special exhibits during Salem's bicentennial festivities July 30-August 1.

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SALINE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY--Mary Lirones was elected president for the coming year at the April meeting. Mildred Guenther will be vice-president, Sylvia Coleman, secretary, and Marci Cameron, treasurer. They will be installed at a picnic meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, at Curtiss Park in Saline.

No regular meetings are planned for the rest of the summer but SAHS will be maintaining downtown displays of historical artifacts during the summer for the bicentennial under chairman Bonnie Shedd. Alberta Rogers is chairman of a house tour being planned for next fall.

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YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY--Judy Beckett of 1649 S. Harris Rd., who makes cloth Betsy Ross dolls entirely by hand--no machine stitching--will exhibit her dolls at the museum from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 13. She plans to show some in various stages of completion so the viewer can see how they are put together.

SEE YOU NEXT FALL

This is the last issue of the "Impressions" until next September. See you then.

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Washtenaw County Historical Society Meeting
Thurs. **MAY 20** 1976
8:00 P.M.
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